

Third Sunday of Lent – March 4, 2018

Hypocrisy: The Thing Jesus Hates

Throughout the Gospels, there are only a few times when Jesus acts out in righteous anger.

Each of those times, he does so to condemn hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is what Jesus hates: appearing to be one thing on the outside, but actually being something else entirely on the inside. That is exactly what the Temple officials were doing. By all appearances, the Temple officials were directing their fellow Jews in proper rituals of worship. In actual fact, however, they were interfering with the worship. God had given his people the Temple to be a house of prayer and worship, a place of encountering God's mercy. The buying, selling, and money changing that went on in the Temple are had long been happening there, and for good reason. According to Old Testament law, pilgrims to the Temple had to make animal offerings to the priest, who would sacrifice them on the pilgrims' behalf. Strict rules governed the qualifications of these animal victims - not just any animal would do. Therefore, business cropped up that specialized in making the right beasts easily available. Likewise, pilgrims came from all over the civilized world and brought money of different currencies. These had to be weighed, valued, and exchanged to be used for purchasing the sacrificial victims. But through the years, gradually, greed and corruption had infiltrated even these sacred services, just as the selling posts had infiltrated the Temple's sacred precincts. By the time of Christ, the moneychangers were demanding excessive fees, and the animal became a path to worldly success. The Temple officials appeared to be good religious examples, but actually they were greedy merchants. That contradiction between appearances and reality is hypocrisy – the thing Jesus hates most of all.

Application: 2 ways to connect to Truth. None of us wants to live a divided life, to tear apart our own soul and to lead others to destruction along the way. And yet, when we are honest with ourselves, it is frightening to think how easily we fall into lies, deceptions, and hypocrisy. We easily find ways to make other people think that we are exemplary Catholics that we have it all together, while on the inside we still seek the kingdom of “me” rather than the Kingdom of Christ. What can we do to grow in our love for and practice of the truth? What can we do to let Christ cleanse the Temple of our hearts from the lies and deceptions that block out his light and his grace?

God knows that it is hard for us to live in the truth, and so he has provided wonderful tools to help us. Two of them are especially appropriate for Lent.

First, the sacrament of confession. Jesus gave the Priesthood the power in His name and through the Holy

Spirit to forgive Christians the sins they commit after baptism. No one else has this power. There is no better way to live in the truth than by going to confession frequently. Once a month is a great plan but going more than once in Lent you'll grow rich in grace! Confession always starts with a sincere examination of our own conscience, to identify our sinful and selfish actions, thoughts, and omissions. That's being honest; that's seeking the truth, not hiding or hiding from it. And then, when we confess those sins to Christ through his representative, we permit his grace to cleanse us and give us a fresh start. And at the same time, that grace strengthens us to resist future temptations! Throughout Lent in Washington and Arlington parishes have extended hours for confessions. Please take advantage of this gift.

2nd. Re-discover the Power of the Eucharist by attending one daily mass or more or making various “visits” to the Blessed Sacrament in quiet or in an adoration Service. The Eucharist is the real presence of Christ under appearances of bread and wine. And Christ said that he is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). The more we come before him, even reading your Bible in front of the Tabernacle, brings us into a deep connection to the Truth. Spending time in his presence, praying, adoring, reading the Scriptures in front of the Eucharist, is a powerful way to allow his truth to penetrate, heal, and protect our minds and hearts. Friday in Lent we have a Holy Hour from 6-7pm to come before the Lord. Jesus hates hypocrisy because hypocrisy separates us from his friendship, which is the real source of the meaning and fulfillment we seek. Today, as Jesus comes to renew his commitment to us, let's us ask his forgiveness for our hypocritical moments, and let's promise to do all that is in our power to live in his truth from now on.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor

ATTENDANCE REPORT

2/25/18

Attendance: 420 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$6,947

Spanish Mass: \$192

Utility fund: \$246

Bible Study. “Gospel according to Mark”.

Mondays at 5:45 pm in the Music Room with Fr. Evans.

Bring your Bible and a catechism. St. Mark, pray for us!



Mass Intentions

March 3 - 10, 2018

Sat. 3/3	8: 00a	+Pearl Jefferson
	4:30p	Sick homebound parishioners
Sun. 3/4	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00a	+Alfreda Ibe
	1:00p	Gilberto Parra (healing)
Mon. 3/5	Noon	Mr. & Mrs. Justin Willis
Tue. 3/6	Noon	+Virginia Evans
Wed. 3/7	Noon	+Kenneth H. Weaver
Thu. 3/8	Noon	Connie Ortiz-Johnson (healing)
Fri. 3/9	Noon	KOC - Keane Council Members
Sat. 3/10	8:00a	Nativity Youth
	4:30p	Nativity – The Elect

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Francis Howard, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Geraldine Jones, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Robert Myers, *Iris Newman, *D. Cynhia Peters, *Willie Poole, Jr., *Dorothy Richburg, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo, *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Donald Whiting, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta,

****We are updating the sick list. Please call the Rectory if you need to add or delete a name. Thank you.**



Stations of the Cross – Every Friday

- ❖ after the daily Mass (noon)
- ❖ after the Holy Hour (6:00 pm)

Dollars and Diapers Outreach Ministry 2018. Diapers may be dropped off at the front vestibule of the church in the labeled collection containers. Donation envelopes are in a basket located on the altar rail labeled DOLLARS AND DIAPERS.

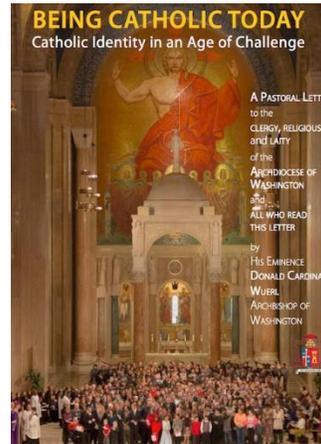


Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 11. That's when you'll move your clocks ahead an hour, to 3 a.m.

Commissioning

All employees part time or full time must attend workshops for the ADW and be Commissioned by the Pastor. This applies to non-Catholic employees as well as Cath. employees.

This also applies to ALL volunteers - ushers, choir singers, catechists. If you were commissioned at another location, you need not repeat the workshop but



will still be commissioned at the masses.

This will be completed by June 2018. Info also at this link: <http://adw.org/formation/>



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Keane Council #353

Lenten Fish Fry. Starting on February 16th at 6 pm in the Lounge. This event will occur every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Dinners are \$10, sandwiches \$5. Proceeds provide grants, scholarships, and awards for parish activities. More information call Bob Newman 301.892.2713 or Peter Gervais 202.494.7347

We are going to see "Jesus" The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a bus trip on June 9th. to the "Sight and Sound" Theatre in Lancaster, PA to see the Biblical play "Jesus." Price of \$125 includes cost of ticket and transportation to and from the theatre. \$50 per person deposit is due by March 15, 2018. Full payment due by May 9th, 2018. We will stop for lunch and dinner at the Tanger Outlet. For more information contact: Chairman Thomas Ayala 202.882.2527 or Amado Alvarez 240.381.9276. Come join us and bring the family, it's going to be a lot of fun.

The Saint John Paul II National Shrine invites you and your family to a Pre-Founders Day Mass and Reception on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 6:30pm. The Celebrant and Homilist for the Mass will be Fr. Jonathan Kalisch, O.P., who serves as the Director of Chaplains for the Knights of Columbus. Mass will conclude with veneration of a relic of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney. Following Mass will be a reception and talk by Fr. Gabriel O'Donnell, O.P., Vice Postulator for the Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney. Admission is free